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We Are...Marshall, June 15, 2011

Office of Marshall University Communications

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We Are...Marshall for June 15, 2011

University Communications Announcements

Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2011 10:44 AM

To: AllExchangeUsers

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The Newsletter for Marshall University

June 15, 2011

Marshall to partner with UK as part of national research funding project



Marshall University announced yesterday it will be partnering with the University of Kentucky (UK) as part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) institutional Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program aimed at speeding the time for laboratory discoveries to benefit patients.

[Read more.](#)

At left: President Kopp announcing the partnership with the University of Kentucky.

Sherri Stepp is Employee of the Year



Sherri Stepp (left) received the Employee of the Year

Sherri Stepp, Director of University College, has been named the Marshall University 2011 Employee of the Year. The announcement was made by President Stephen J. Kopp at the annual service awards luncheon held June 9 in the Memorial Student Center.

An employee since 1988, she was the August 2010 Employee of the Month who at the time was the Interim Director of University College. She was named director earlier this year. Stepp was nominated by Sarah Craiger, Steve Hensley and Jennifer Kennedy. During the awards ceremony she also received an award for 20 years of service.

[Read more.](#)

award from President Kopp June 9.

Service Awards Luncheon Honors Employment Milestones



*Paul Dempsey, piano technician,
who was recognized for 40
years of service.*

More than 2300 years of service were celebrated Thursday, June 9, as service awards were presented to classified and non-classified employees at milestones of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years. In addition, tribute was paid to those retiring from Marshall during the past year.

President Stephen J. Kopp presented the awards, which included key chains, lapel pins, tie tacs, charms, watches, clocks and rocking chairs. Retirees received a specially designed glass sculpture titled "Iceberg," which has an etching of Old Main on it.

[Click for more pictures and names of honorees.](#)

Board of Governors chair to be featured on 'Inspiring West Virginians'



Verna K. Gibson, who is currently serving as chair of the Marshall University Board of Governors, will be among the people featured on the West Virginia Public Radio program titled "Inspiring West Virginians." The program will air at 9 p.m. Thursday, June 16.

[Read more.](#)

Rankin selected chair-elect of Mid-Atlantic Assoc. of Forensic Scientists Criminalistics Section

Dr. J. Graham Rankin, a forensic chemistry professor in



the Forensic Science graduate program, has been selected as chair-elect of the Criminalistics Section of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists.

He will assume the chair position in May 2012 following next year's meeting in Ellicott City, Md.

[Read more.](#)

New Works Project features plays by students, alumni



The Department of Theatre will present its 5th annual New Works Project beginning Thursday, June 16, and running through Saturday, June 18.

The New Works Project is a contemporary theatre festival created to help develop, promote and present readings of plays in their earliest stages.

[Read more.](#)

Jazz-MU-Tazz takes jazz performances to Pullman Square June 18

Jazz-MU-Tazz, Marshall University's summer jazz festival for high school musicians, will present a series of performances from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 18, at Pullman Square. The event concludes the annual festival.

Groups to be heard that day will include the Marshall's Jazz Ensemble, Project Postbop (a MU student combo), and a high school jazz ensemble and jazz combos composed of festival attendees. Culminating the evening will be the Tommy Money Orchestra at 8 p.m.

[Read more.](#)

Application process begins for fall Graduate Scholarship Tuition Waivers

Applications are now being accepted for the Marshall University Graduate Scholarship Tuition Waiver

Applicants must be currently admitted and enrolled in a graduate degree-granting or certificate program. Up

program for the fall semester, according to Dr. Donna Spindel, dean of the Graduate College. The program provides tuition assistance for graduate students and Marshall full-time faculty and staff employees.

to three hours of waiver for graduate coursework will be awarded to qualified applicants. The waiver does not cover online courses.

[Read more.](#)

Marshall Day at Great American Ballpark features former Herd and Major League Baseball player Jeff Montgomery



Jeff Montgomery

Former Marshall University baseball player and Major League Baseball all-star Jeff Montgomery will serve as special guest at the 2011 ThunderFest Saturday, July 16, at Cincinnati's Great American Ballpark.

Montgomery, along with Marshall baseball coach Jeff Waggoner, will be available for photographs and autograph signing prior to the game, which features the Reds taking on the St. Louis Cardinals at 7:10 p.m.

[Read more.](#)

Career Services offers easier electronic gateway for job seekers and employers

Career Services is making the employment process a little easier to navigate by upgrading its jobs website. Students, alumni, faculty, staff and even employers can now access www.marshall.edu/jobtrax directly.

The employment site previously had a much longer web address which sometimes caused navigation issues for users.

[Read more.](#)

Rockefeller, Rahall announce \$1.1 million award for Marshall to help West Virginia elementary students

Senator Jay Rockefeller and Congressman Nick Rahall last week announced that Marshall has received a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for 1,174,800 to implement after-school Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs for students in Kanawha, Cabell and Wayne counties. The program will help hundreds of students aged 8 to 11 and teachers studying elementary education.



"I am proud of all that Marshall University is doing to promote math and science learning for young students in southern West Virginia," said Rockefeller.

[Read more.](#)

Dr. Tina Cartwright, assistant professor in the College of Education and Human Services, is the principal investigator for a National Science Foundation grant to implement STEM programs for elementary school students in Kanawha, Cabell and Wayne counties.

The next issue of *We Are...Marshall* will be distributed June 29, 2011. Please send any materials for consideration to [Pat Dickson](#) by June 27.

This issue is also available online at www.marshall.edu/ucomm/newsletters/2011/nl_061511.html.

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Marshall University announced yesterday it will be partnering with the University of Kentucky (UK) as part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program aimed at speeding the time for laboratory discoveries to benefit patients.

NIH has awarded \$20 million to support research at UK's Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS), making it part of a select national biomedical research network. Marshall will be awarded a subcontract of up to \$750,000 over the course of the five-year grant.

The funding will support scientists in Marshall's clinical research program, training fellowships and early stage clinical research trials. The partnership also will give Marshall access to the expertise and resources at UK's CCTS, and opportunities to apply for significant research grants accessible only through the CTSA program.

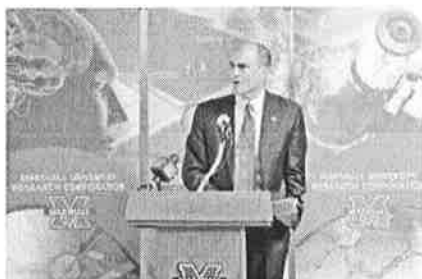


"Marshall University is proud to be partnering with the University of Kentucky on this national grant award," said President Stephen J. Kopp. "Our participation in this multi-state award ensures that the state of West Virginia will be represented in this national consortium of medical research institutions. We share the commitment of all CTSA members to work together to achieve the transformative strategic goals of this innovative program and look forward to realizing the full potential of its promise, especially on behalf of the people of Appalachia."

According to Dr. John M. Maher, vice president for research at Marshall, investigators in the national CTSA network are already working together to advance medical research on many of the diseases and conditions that disproportionately

affect those who live in the region.

He said that researchers at Marshall's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine and the Marshall Institute for Interdisciplinary Research will be involved in the project, and that the areas targeted for clinical research collaboration with UK include cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.



"CTSA funding of Marshall's partnership with the University of Kentucky will accelerate our efforts in clinical and translational research, and forge new collaborations to solve some of the most pervasive health problems in Appalachia," added Maher.

Dr. Philip Kern, associate provost for clinical and translational science at UK, said, "Marshall has substantial clinical expertise and basic science research strength in these areas and we welcome the opportunity to partner with them to enhance both of our biomedical research programs."

Dr. Charles H. McKown Jr., dean of the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, said the populations served by Marshall's

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Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health and the UK Centers for Rural Health, which border each other geographically, provide the opportunity to enhance translational research and participation in clinical trials throughout the Appalachian region.

McKown added, "This award is significant because not only will our researchers be able to tap into the national CTSA resources to help speed the translation of scientific discoveries into treatments for patients, we will also be able to more fully engage our rural communities in clinical research efforts and better train a whole new generation of researchers."

"I congratulate Marshall University on receiving this prestigious grant" said Sen. Jay Rockefeller. "The CTSA is a significant step forward for our state because now we can combine expert research from across the country with Marshall's strong focus and experience in rural medicine. This also means that we will have access to future NIH funding and resources that will lead to better health care initiatives for people in West Virginia, and other rural and underserved areas of the country."

Sen. Joe Manchin noted that the announcement "...is not only a wonderful opportunity for Marshall University, but also for our entire state. This partnership fosters future progress in health studies and incorporates Appalachian rural communities into critical medical research. I applaud Marshall's staff, faculty and students for their participation in this important partnership, because I am confident that all West Virginians will benefit from this collaborative effort."

Congressman Nick Rahall added, "Marshall has opened an important and sizable door of opportunity to meet rural health needs and to address chronic diseases all too prevalent in Appalachia. Marshall medicine was born out of a federal investment; by supporting these initiatives and helping Marshall to unite its valuable resources and insight with researchers elsewhere, we help shape the course of future clinical research in the nation."

"Marshall University has forged a path as a leader in the biomedical field," Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin said. "This collaboration with the University of Kentucky further solidifies Marshall's position while offering great promise for improved health care in our state and region. I look forward to the new discoveries that will emerge from this opportunity."

NIH launched the CTSA program in 2006 to encourage collaboration across scientific disciplines and spur innovative approaches in tackling research challenges. With the addition of the 2011 recipient institutions, the program is fully implemented and includes 60 CSAs across the nation.

For more information about the CTSA program, visit www.ncrr.nih.gov/ctsa. The CTSA consortium website, which provides information about the consortium, current members and new grantees, can be accessed at www.CTSAweb.org. For more information about the UK CCTS and its partners, visit www.ccts.uky.edu.

Photos: (Above) President Stephen J. Kopp speaks during a news conference announcing that Marshall is partnering with the University of Kentucky on a national research funding project. (Below) Dr. John Maher at the same news conference.

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Sherri Stepp is Employee of the Year



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An employee since 1988, she was the August 2010 Employee of the Month who at the time was the Interim Director of University College. She was named director earlier this year. Stepp was nominated by Sarah Craiger, Steve Hensley and Jennifer Kennedy. During the awards ceremony she also received an award for 20 years of service.

In her nomination Craiger commented on Stepp's care and attentiveness to both students and employees. "The way she speaks to students shows not only that she is empathetic, but that she will go the extra mile to see any student succeed ... if someone needs her help, she is always ready to give it. Right now she is working from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. -- and she never complains about it."

Hensley noted that Stepp worked in Student Affairs for several years before becoming Interim Director of the University College. "In that position Sherri has taken responsibility for hiring and training the new staff in that area, as well as establishing policies and procedure that will allow the unit to succeed," he wrote. "Sherri is not constrained by items on her job description. She consistently develops creative ways to make a difference for students. As director of our leadership development program (John Marshall Emerging Leaders Institute) she has made this group a powerful force for students here. She is a creative wizard with publications."

Kennedy wrote "She is truly a remarkable person. Whatever is asked of her, she does without complaint. Not only is Sherri the Interim Director of University College but she has also been charged with the task of overseeing all aspects of the new Student Resource Center, from hiring staff to coordinating and observing our month-long intensive training. Sherri is eager to see students succeed and will give her all to make that possible. Her dedication and service to students and university are without end."

President Kopp presented Stepp with a plaque, a check for \$300, a \$100 gift certificate from the Follett Campus Bookstore and a \$25 gift certificate from Sodexo Food Services.

Photo: Sherri Stepp (left) receives the Employee of the Year award from President Kopp June 9.

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Service Awards Luncheon Honors Employment Milestones

More than 2300 years of service were celebrated Thursday, June 9, as service awards were presented to classified and non-classified employees at milestones of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years. In addition, tribute was paid to those retiring from Marshall during the past year.

President Stephen J. Kopp presented the awards, which included key chains, lapel pins, tie tacs, charms, watches, clocks and rocking chairs. Retirees received a specially designed glass sculpture titled "Iceberg," which has an etching of Old Main on it.

Names of all honorees are listed below.



Ten Years of Service



Fifteen Years of Service



Twenty Years of Service



Twenty-Five Years of Service

Welcome

The Office of University Communications assists members of the news media and the university community with services relating to the public image of Marshall University.

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Thirty Years of Service



Thirty-Five Years of Service



Forty Years of Service



Retirees

For 10 Years of Service: Eleanor Anders, Terry Blake, Heather Brooks, Thomas Burnside, Travis Callihan, Patricia Campbell, Royce Chadwick, David Daniel, Rodney Elliott, Paul Glover, Anna Gue, Gregory Harmon, Nancy Heffernan, John Huxley, Ian Levstein, Tawnia Mathis, Gloria McFann, Linda McLain-Hartlage, Karen Midkiff, Kandice Napler, Leonard Nida, Joseph Perry, Holly Simpkins, Tracy Smith, Michael Smith, Timothy Sowards, Rita Spears, Crystal Stewart, John Sutherland, Julia White, and Daniel Williamson.

For 15 Years of Service: Monica Brooks, Dennis Chappelle, Lisa Christopher, Kimberly Fry, Paul Hermansdorfer, David Steele, Denise Wiley, and Timothy Woolum.

For 20 Years of Service: Barbara Becker-Cottrill, Thomas Bergquist, Judy Blevins, Pamela Bowen, Charles Carico, Linda Eastham, Tami Fletcher, Christopher Kennedy, Beverly Lee, Mark Nethercutt, Carolyn Plybon, Barbara Simpkins, Patsy Smith, Sherri Stepp, Barbara Tubbs-Ford, and Debra Wood.

For 25 Years of Service: Dianne Anests, John Ball, Linda Bowen, Jonathan Brown, Virginia Campbell-Turner, Leslie Cavender, Harold Cook, Pamela Hamilton, Gina Kates, and Betty Lewis, John McComas, Melinda Morgan, James Morris-Smith, Gael Setliff, LuAnn South, and Wilma Thomas.

For 30 Years of Service: Ruby Dean, Mike Dunn, Marilyn Fox, James McKeney, Elizabeth Nickell, Nancy Schultz, and Wanda Webb.

For 35 Years of Service: Stephanie Gray, Charles McKown, Glenna Racer, Kristine Standifur, and Sheila Wiley.

For 40 Years of Service: Paul Dempsey.

Retirees: Sherry Adkins, Thomas Bergquist, Bonnie Berry, Leslie Cavender, Janet Clark, John Curry, Brenda Flemings, Elizabeth Graybeal, Florence Harshbarger, Carol Henson, Jacqueline Hersman, Sharon Lake, Henry Lambert, Karen Lucas, Juanita Marley, Joyce Maynard, Dennis Meadows, Vickie Navy, Nancy Person, Faye Ronk, Nancy Schultz, Stephen Shumlas, James Sinnette, Samuel Stanley, Mary Wolfe, and Nancy Wooten.

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Board of Governors chair to be featured on 'Inspiring West Virginians'



Verna K. Gibson, who is currently serving as chair of the Marshall University Board of Governors, will be among the people featured on the West Virginia Public Radio program titled "Inspiring West Virginians." The program will air at 9 p.m. Thursday, June 16.

Gibson became the first female CEO of a Fortune 500 company in 1985 when she was named to that position at The Limited, a Columbus, Ohio, retail chain.

[Read story on West Virginia Public Broadcasting website.](#)

Photo: Verna K. Gibson (right), chair of Marshall's Board of Governors, will be featured on a West Virginia Public Radio broadcast titled "Inspiring West Virginians" Thursday, June 16.

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Rankin selected chair-elect of Mid-Atlantic Assoc. of Forensic Scientists Criminalistics Section



Dr. J. Graham Rankin, a forensic chemistry professor in the Forensic Science graduate program, has been selected as chair-elect of the Criminalistics Section of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists.

He will assume the chair position in May 2012 following next year's meeting in Ellicott City, Md. During his term as chair-elect, he will be responsible for organizing the presentations in the Criminalistics Section for next year's meeting and assisting the current chair, Susan Stanitski of the Virginia Department of Forensic Science.

"Criminalistics is the branch of forensic science concerning the analysis and interpretation of physical evidence such as drugs, fire debris, explosives residue and other trace evidence," said Rankin. "It is an honor to be selected for this position by one's peers, who are working at the laboratory bench every day processing evidence from crime scenes."

Rankin also presented two papers based on work of Amber Rasmussen and Amanda Heeren, who are 2011 graduates of the Forensic Science graduate program. During the summer of 2010, Rasmussen developed a method for the analysis of the active ingredients in marijuana mimics, also known as "spice," while she was an intern with the Kentucky State Police Eastern Laboratory Chemistry Section in Ashland, Ky. "Spice type" products are plant material coated with one or more synthetic compounds that have similar hallucinogenic properties as marijuana when smoked. These products were made illegal at both the state and federal levels earlier this year.

Heeren, who has worked in Dr. Rankin's lab for the past two years, studied the effect of various charred wood substrates on the interpretation of ignitable liquid residues in fire debris. Her work was instrumental to the receipt of a major grant from the National Institute of Justice by Rankin last fall.

Both projects are being continued this summer by graduate students in Rankin's lab at Marshall.

Photo: Dr. J. Graham Rankin has been selected as chair-elect of the Criminalistics Section of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists.

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New Works Project features plays by students, alumni



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The New Works Project is a contemporary theatre festival created to help develop, promote and present readings of plays in their earliest stages. The New Works Project has presented the work of both local and national playwrights. Works presented have included full-length plays, shorts, one-act plays, musicals, children's plays, screenplays and television pilots.

This season's schedule is as follows:

Thursday, June 16, at 7 p.m.: The Student Playwright Project

This is a chance to see five brand-new short plays, all written, directed and performed by Marshall students. Plays include: *Marlboro Man*, written by Chuck Herndon; *A Last Supper*, written by Erik Woods; *In Progress*, written by Rocky Scarbro; and *Burgle*, written by Dylan Clark. The featured act of the evening will be Marshall theatre alumnus Jonathan Joy's new work, *Count Your Blessings*.

Friday, June 17, at 7 p.m.: The Contemporary Theatre Project

Well, written by Lisa Kron, is a Tony Award nominee that puts an entirely new spin on the art of storytelling. This is a mother-daughter tale recounting the life of the play's author. Depicting herself as an anxious performance artist, Kron illustrates the struggles of healthy living and, ultimately, "wellness."

Saturday, June 18 at 7 p.m.: The Musical Theatre Project

Collis P! had its first reading at the premiere season of the New Works Project in 2007. Now in its final stages of development, this original musical is back. *Collis P!* centers around the larger-than-life character of Huntington, W.Va.'s own founding father - Collis P. Huntington.

One of the most important aspects of the New Works Project is its audience collaboration sessions. After each evening's presentation, audience members are encouraged to stay and give direct feedback to the playwright and company, in order to bring each play one step closer to its full completion.

Each performance will take place in the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre. All shows are free to the public but donations are encouraged in order to support future performances of new works.

For ticket information, contact Sam Kincaid at 6-ARTS (2787).

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Groups to be heard that day will include the Marshall's Jazz Ensemble, Project Postbop (a MU student combo), and a high school jazz ensemble and jazz combos composed of festival attendees. Culminating the evening will be the Tommy Money Orchestra at 8 p.m. These performances are free and open to the public.

Student participants in the festival, which began June 13, take classes in jazz performance and improvisation as well as other related music topics, said Dr. Ed Bingham, professor of music and director of jazz studies. In addition to the daily classes, evening activities such as concerts, jam sessions, movies and recreational activities will round out each day. This year, the students will be working with guest artist/instructor Dr. Dave Dickey, a trombonist.

Dickey also will be performing with Bluetrane, Marshall's faculty combo, at the Paramount Arts Center in Ashland, Ky., at 8 p.m. Friday, June 17, as part of the center's "Jazz Alley" series. Adult tickets are \$25, and are available online at www.paramountartscenter.com, by calling the center at 606-324-3175 or by visiting the center in person from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Application process begins for fall Graduate Scholarship Tuition Waivers

Applications are now being accepted for the Marshall University Graduate Scholarship Tuition Waiver program for the fall semester, according to Dr. Donna Spindel, dean of the Graduate College. The program provides tuition assistance for graduate students and Marshall full-time faculty and staff employees.

Applicants must be currently admitted and enrolled in a graduate degree-granting or certificate program. Up to three hours of waiver for graduate coursework will be awarded to qualified applicants. The waiver does not cover online courses.

The awarding of waivers is competitive and is made on the basis of academic achievement and promise, Spindel said. Preference may be given to students who did not receive a waiver the previous semester.

Student waivers have a maximum value of \$750 to cover the cost of up to three credit hours for graduate coursework. Faculty/Staff employee benefit waivers cover the complete cost of up to three credit hours for graduate coursework (with the exception of required fees).

- Deadline for the applications is Friday, July 22. Applicants who are awarded waivers will be notified by e-mail. Waivers are posted to student accounts within 10 business days of approval and registration. Award recipients are responsible for any amount not covered by the waiver. Balances must be paid by the tuition/fee due date noted on the Bursar website at www.marshall.edu/bursar/tuition-payment/tuition-fee-due-dates/.
- Applicants must be registered for graduate courses for fall 2011 by Friday, Aug. 5, in order to receive a waiver.

Spindel said applicants are encouraged to register for classes at the same time they submit a waiver application. Waivers for students who are not registered by Aug. 5 will be assigned to other qualified applicants.

Applications are available in the Graduate College office (Old Main 113), through a student's academic department office on the South Charleston campus, or online at www.marshall.edu/graduate/forms/tuitionwaiverfall2011.pdf. Completed waiver applications can be submitted in person, by U.S. mail, or by e-mail.

For more information, contact the Graduate College office at 304-696-6606.

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University June 15, 2011

Marshall Day at Great American Ballpark features former Herd and Major League Baseball player Jeff Montgomery



Former Marshall University baseball player and Major League Baseball all-star Jeff Montgomery will serve as special guest at the 2011 ThunderFest Saturday, July 16, at Cincinnati's Great American Ballpark.

Montgomery, along with Marshall baseball coach Jeff Waggoner, will be available for photographs and autograph signing prior to the game, which features the Reds taking on the St. Louis Cardinals at 7:10 p.m. The day's festivities also include university recognition on the field prior to the game and on the video screens during the game, and Marshall representatives singing Take Me Out to the Ballgame.

Montgomery played baseball at Marshall and was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in 1983 as a pitcher. He played one season with the Reds, posting a 2-2 record in 1987. Montgomery was traded to the Kansas City Royals in 1988 where he played until retirement in 1999.

He had an outstanding career with the Royals as a closer, recording a team-record 304 saves in 12 seasons (1988-1999). He is a member of Kansas City's Hall of Fame.

Montgomery currently serves as vice president for Union Broadcasting in Kansas City, Mo.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to promote Marshall University to thousands of people attending the game and we are absolutely thrilled Jeff will be with us," said Tish Littlehales, Executive Director of Marshall University Alumni. "This is our fourth year for ThunderFest and it's always a big hit with our alums all across the region."

Corporate and individual tickets sales are currently under way. Group tickets may be purchased by contacting the Marshall Alumni Office at 304-696-3134. Individual tickets are available at www.reds.com/marshall or through the alumni office.

Contact Littlehales for more information at 304-696-2523.



Photo: Former Marshall University baseball player and Major League Baseball all-star Jeff Montgomery will serve as special guest at the 2011 ThunderFest.

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University June 15, 2011

Career Services offers easier electronic gateway for job seekers and employers

Career Services is making the employment process a little easier to navigate by upgrading its jobs website.

Students, alumni, faculty, staff and even employers can now access www.marshall.edu/jobtrax directly. The employment site previously had a much longer web address which sometimes caused navigation issues for users.

"As they say in the real estate industry, location is key," said Denise Hogsett, director of Career Services. "This easy-to-remember address will help our students and our employers and representatives get directly to the JobTrax site with very few keystrokes. The change will afford users a much easier pathway to employment."

JobTrax is a Web-based service that allows students and alumni to search for jobs, research employers, post their resumes, and even sign up for on-campus interviews. The resource also allows faculty to assist their students in finding employment and allows employers to post their job openings free of charge.

For more information on JobTrax or to ask questions about Career Services, contact [Glen Midkiff](#) at ext. 6-3396.

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WE ARE... MARSHALL®

The Newsletter for Marshall University

June 15, 2011

Rockefeller, Rahall Announce \$1.1 Million award for Marshall to help West Virginia elementary students



Senator Jay Rockefeller and Congressman Nick Rahall last week announced that Marshall has received a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for 1,174,800 to implement after-school Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs for students in Kanawha, Cabell and Wayne counties. The program will help hundreds of students aged 8 to 11 and teachers studying elementary education.

"I am proud of all that Marshall University is doing to promote math and science learning for young students in southern West Virginia," said Rockefeller. "It's clear that math and science expertise is a route to many of the best paying jobs, and we need to get our students interested in these subjects

at an early age. A world-class workforce that is equipped for the challenges of the 21st Century will pay incredible dividends for this generation and future ones also."

"We must prepare our students in the classroom today for the workforce of tomorrow," said Rahall, a long-time supporter of STEM education and increased investments in research and development and workforce training as a means of creating jobs in West Virginia. "We must fire up our children's interest in science, math, and technology to keep our workforce globally competitive in the 21st Century; that is how we diversify our economy and ensure that our young people can build well-paying careers right here in their own backyards."

In 2007 Dr. Tina Cartwright, an assistant professor in the College of Education and Human Services at Marshall, was awarded an \$800,000 grant from NSF to begin an after-school science enrichment program for 8-11-year olds in community centers and schools. Since 2007, 170 students in Dunbar and Charleston have participated in the program. The newly awarded grant will be used to continue a similar program in Kanawha County and expand it to Cabell and Wayne counties.

"SCI-TALKS targets students at an age when building interest in science is critical for maintaining the natural curiosity that children have about the world around them," said Cartwright. "By building a safe learning environment outside the formal school day where student talk becomes a central lesson feature, both elementary students and elementary education college students will work together to improve student interest and learning in science, technology, engineering and math."

Photo: Dr. Tina Cartwright, assistant professor in the College of Education and Human Services, is the principal investigator for a National Science Foundation grant to implement STEM programs for elementary school students in Kanawha, Cabell and Wayne counties.

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